WINCHESTER NEWS
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SCHOOLS

Winchester teen Cecilia Goldsmith recognized as National Merit Commended student

October 7, 2025 . 6:00 PM — 1 min read

Winchester resident Cecilia Goldsmith, a student at Austin Prep in Reading, has been named a Commended Student in the 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program. COURTESY PHOTO/AUSTIN PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The following was submitted by Austin Preparatory School:

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Austin Preparatory School is proud to announce that Winchester resident Cecilia Goldsmith, a student at Austin Prep in Reading, has been named a Commended Student in the 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program, an honor awarded to just 34,000 students nationwide. This distinction places her among the top 0.75% of all high school juniors in the United States.

Out of an estimated 4.5 million juniors nationwide, about 1.3 million entered the competition by taking the PSAT/NMSQT, from which the Commended Students were selected.

Commended Students are recognized for their exceptional academic promise and placed among the most academically accomplished high school seniors in the United States.

“Cecilia’s recognition is a testament to the intellectual energy and character that she brings to our community,” said James Hickey, Ph.D., Head of School. “She exemplifies what it means to pair talent with dedication, and we are excited to see how she will continue to grow and contribute.”

“One thing that helped me to succeed on the PSAT test was the excellent teachers I’ve learned from at Austin Prep. Their guidance on how to best approach questions and build study strategies was very useful and I performed better because of that,” said Goldsmith. “The quality of their instruction has extended beyond test preparation to all of my classes throughout my time at AP and I’m extremely appreciative of their support.”

According to the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, Commended Students represent a “valuable national resource,” and their recognition is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in the nation.

Austin Preparatory School is an independent, Augustinian Catho
serving young men and women in grades 6–12, located in Reading, Mass.

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SCHOOLS

Winchester High School club hopes art contest will foster interest in Black history, culture

When then-freshman Christie Clark approached Carson Sarpong about becoming a co-founder for her club, Black Student Union, he was hesitant. Three years later, Sarpong is the president, and the club has organized the Black History Project, a contest that invites students to create art about Black history and culture. The

TAVISHI CHATTOPADHYAY | CORRESPONDENT
February 5, 2026

SCHOOLS

Winchester High School's speech and debate team sees a meteoric rise

Winchester's speech and debate team, like most things, began with only a handful of students competing in its inaugural year and receiving little attention from the school. Yet now, what began as a modest club for fun, has grown into something significant and respected by the entire Massachusetts debate

XIYUE ERIC HAN | CORRESPONDENT
January 30, 2026

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SCHOOLS

Winchester High School Athletic Department reschedules open house for 8th graders

The following was submitted by the Winchester High School Athletics Department: On Monday, Feb. 2, the Winchester High School Athletics Department will be hosting its rescheduled open house night for 8th graders from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the auditorium. Come to an informational meeting, meet the coaches, learn

January 27, 2026

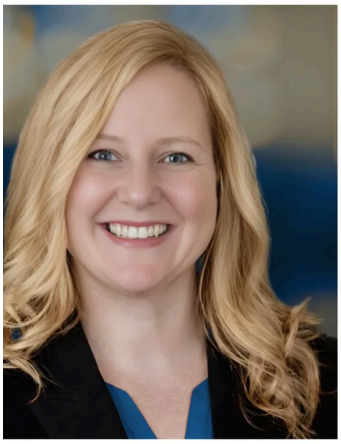
EVENTS

Winchester High School Black Student Union launches 'Black History Project' contest, community showcase

The following was submitted by the Black Student Union at Winchester High School: The Black Student Union (BSU) at Winchester High School (WHS) is proud to announce the launch of the Black History Project, a contest designed to foster education, research, and creative expression surrounding Black history and culture. The

January 14, 2026

Latest



NEWS

FEATURES

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Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 4, 2026

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

March 4, 2026

NEWS

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

March 4, 2026

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